

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00

EB-08 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

SAA-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 SSM-03 /143 W

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INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC, EGEN

SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC - AGENDA ITEM 28: DECOLONIZATION; SUB-ITEM: ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINIAN PEOPLE --
US/SYRIAN EXCHANGE; POSSIBLE RESOLUTION

REF: A) GENEVA 10314, B) STATE 172849

1. DEBATE ON THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT ON ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TOOK PLACE JULY 10-11 IN COORDINATION COMMITTEE. IN LINE WITH DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTION IN REFTEL B, THE U.S. REP (THE ONLY WESTERN REP TO SPEAK) MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT EARLY IN THE JULY 11 SESSION:

BEGIN QUOTE: MY DELEGATION HAS CAREFULLY STUDIED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT ON ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE BY U.N. AGENCIES, AND WE WISH TO MAKE A FEW COMMENTS.

THE U.S. ENCOURAGES AGENCIES IN THE U.N. SYSTEM TO EXTEND
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APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE THROUGH OR IN COORDINATION WITH UNRWA, THE ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED TO DEAL WITH THESE NEEDS. OUR VERY SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA ARE TESTIMONY OF OUR SUPPORT.

HOWEVER, THE U.S. DOES NOT AGREE WITH EFFORTS TO CHANNEL U.N. AGENCIES' ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

THROUGH THE PLO OR TO ACCORD THE PLO EXCLUSIVE STATUS AS THE SPOKESMAN FOR PALESTINIAN NEEDS. WE BELIEVE THAT EFFORTS TO ACCORD THE PLO SOME SPECIAL POLITICAL STATUS SHOULD NOT BE DEALT WITH IN ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS ECOSOC.

THE U.S. BELIEVES THAT THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE BY AGENCY HEADS TO ECOSOC RESOLUTION 2100 IS TO CONSULT WITH THE PLO AS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE IN A POSITION TO IDENTIFY THE NEEDS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE -- TO CONSULT IN DRAWING UP THEIR PROPOSALS TO MEET THESE NEEDS. IN DOING SO, HEADS OF AGENCIES SHOULD ADHERE STRICTLY TO THE MANDATES OF THEIR CHARTERS. WE SHOULD NOT ASK THEM TO GO BEYOND THOSE MANDATES.

FINALLY, MR. CHAIRMAN, THE U.S. DOES NOT BELIEVE THE QUESTION OF ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE SHOULD APPROPRIATELY BE CONSIDERED UNDER THE GENERAL RUBRIC OF THE DECLARATION ON GRANTING INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES. WE MADE A STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT IN EXPRESSING OUR RESERVATIONS ON THE ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA. END QUOTE.

2. AFTER A NUMBER OF THEIR DELEGATES (MOSTLY COMMUNIST AND ARAB) AND FINALLY THE ISRAELI OBSERVER MADE STATEMENTS (SEPT), THE SYRIAN REP EXERCISED THE RIGHT OF REPLY TO THE U.S. AND ISRAEL. DIRECTING PRACTICALLY ALL HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REMARKS TO THE U.S., HE LAUNCHED INTO A LENGTHY AND CONDESCENDING LECTURE, CLAIMING THAT THE U.S. REP, WHOSE COUNTRY WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING THE PROBLEM OF THE MIDDLE EAST, WAS DISTORTING HISTORY BY ALLEGEDLY STATING THAT UNRWA WAS THE ONLY BODY THROUGH WHOM ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. HE CITED RESOLUTION 302 (IV) OF 1949 ESTABLISHING UNRWA AND PARTICULARLY PARA 5 CALLING FOR CONTINUED ASSISTANCE FOR THE RELIEF OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES. HE ALSO CITED RESOLUTION 194 (III) OF 1948, PARA 11, CALLING FOR THE REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES OR THE PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO THOSE CHOOSING NOT TO RETURN -- A RESOLUTION HE SAID THE U.S. REPEATEDLY SUPPORTED. NOW, HOWEVER, THE LEGITIMATE OWNERS OF LOST PROPERTY IN PALESTINE WERE ASKING FOR ASSISTANCE AND THE U.S. WAS DENYING IT. WITH RESPECT TO THE POSITION THAT ALL ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE SHOULD BE CHanneled THROUGH UNRWA, HE ASSERTED THAT UNRWA COVERS REFUGEES REGISTERED AS SUCH AND NOT PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AS A WHOLE. HE SUGGESTED THE U.S. REP SHOULD HAVE STUDIED THESE RESOLUTIONS RATHER THAN DISTORTING HISTORY AND FACTS.

3. U.S. REP IN REPLY STATED HE SIMPLY WISHED TO CLARIFY THE STATEMENTS THE SYRIAN REP HAD ASCRIBED TO HIM BY RE-READING THE SENTENCE OF THE U.S. STATEMENT BEGINNING "THE U.S. ENCOURAGES..."

4. SYRIAN REP RETURNED TO THE FRAY BY SUGGESTING SARCASTICALLY THAT THE U.S. SHOULD THEN INTRODUCE AN

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AMENDMENT IN THE GA TO RESOLUTION 194 SO THAT UNRWA WOULD EXTEND SERVICES TO ALL PALESTINIANS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WHILE WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF ANSWERING THE SYRIAN FURTHER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHAT THE U.N. LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY IS FOR THE POSITION THAT ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE BY OTHER U.N. AGENCIES SHOULD BE THROUGH UNRWA. (WE TOOK THE LIBERTY OF ADDING "OR IN COORDINATION WITH" AS WE BELIEVE THERE IS SOME LEGITIMATE ASSISTANCE BY U.N. AGENCIES THAT IS NOT ACTUALLY CHANELLEDTHROUGH UNRWA.) IN CASE A NEW RESOLUTION IS INTRODUCED ALONG THE LINES OF THOSE ADOPTED BY THE 61ST AND 63RD ECOSOC, WE WILL AGAIN WISH TO EXPLAIN OUR NEGATIVE VOTE.

6. MEANWHILE, WE ARE TOLD ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT THAT ARAB GROUP IS SPLIT OVER A HARD LINE RESOLUTUION OR SOMETHING SIMPLE THAT "MIGHT" BE ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS. COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR HECTOR CHARRY-SAMPER (GENEVA

CHAIRMAN OF THE G-77) HAS TOLD THEM HE WILL NOT INTRODUCE
A RESOLUTION ON BEHALF OF THE G-77, EXPLAINING TO THEM
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THAT A NUMBER OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, STARTING WITH
COLOMBIA, HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THIS ISSUE. VANDEN HEUVEL

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